**Amendments to Specification**:

Please replace the paragraph [00075] beginning on page 20 with the following amended paragraph:

--[00075] 2. Kan Wang at the Plant Transformation Facility, Iowa State University tested for the present invention in two different *Agrobacterium* strains. One contains a T-DNA binary vector with a herbicide resistance gene in the T-DNA (this is the control construction)l. The other strain contains a similar T-DAN binary vector, ~~bit~~ but in addition to the herbicide resistance gene the T-DNA contains the *Arabidopsis* histone H2A-1 cDNA under the control of maize adh1 promoter and intron. These strains were used in four rounds of maize transformation experiments. Usually, transformation and regeneration of maize requires an anti-oxidant (such as L-cysteine) to prevent tissue browning and necrosis as a response to the bacteria. Several thousand transformations (using the control vector without the histone gene) produced virtually no transformants. In these experiments, there were no transformants (using the control strain) without L-cysteine. With L-cysteine, about 2-3% of the infected immature embryos give transformants. Using the histone gene and L-cysteine, there was 2-3% transformation. However, with the histone gene and without L-cysteine, they obtained 2 (0.2%) transformants. Preliminary results suggest that the histone gene may sensitize the maize embryos to transformation so that a few transformants can be obtained in the absence of an anti-oxidant.--